

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are currently pending in this application. Claims 5 and 10-12 have been withdrawn pursuant to an Election of Species filed July 23, 2007. Claims 1 and 4 have been amended herein. Claim 3 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 13 has been newly added herein.

Preliminary Matters

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for acknowledging the claim of foreign priority. Applicants also wish to thank the Examiner for acknowledging the Election of Species filed on July 23, 2007. The Examiner has also acknowledged the Election of Species without traverse filed on July 23, 2007. Applicant duly affirms the Election.

Applicants would also like to thank the Examiner for indicating that the subject matter of claims 3 and 4 is allowable.

Objections

The Examiner has objected to abstract of disclosure as not being a single paragraph and being more than 150 words in length. The abstract of disclosure has been amended herein and Applicants respectfully submit that all the Examiner's concerns have been fully addressed.

The Examiner has objected to the title of invention as not being descriptive. The title of invention has been amended herein and Applicants respectfully submit that all of the Examiner's concerns have been fully addressed.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1, 2 and 6-9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Patent Application 11-20405A (henceforth “the ‘405 patent”). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 1 has been amended herein to include the subject matter of original claim 3, which the Examiner has indicated as allowable, if rewritten into independent form. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that amended claim 1 is patentable over the ‘405 patent, and respectfully request that the rejection of claim 1 be withdrawn.

Further, claims 2 and 6-9 all depend from claim 1 which has been shown above to be patentable. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2 and 6-9 are at least patentable by their dependency, and respectfully request that the rejection of these claims be withdrawn.

Newly Added Claim

Claim 13 has been added herein and recites a pneumatic tire comprising features similar to some of the features recited in claim 1, further including “...at least one transversal reinforcement layer containing straight cords extending perpendicular to the tire’s circumferential direction is provided on a position radially outwardly adjacent to the crown portion of the carcass.” The ‘405 patent cited by the Examiner does not teach or suggest “...at least one transversal reinforcement layer containing straight cords extending perpendicular to the tire’s circumferential direction...”, as is recited in claim 13. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 13 is patentable over the cited reference, and respectfully requests that claim 13 be allowed.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated that claim 4 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 4 has been amended herein to be placed in independent form. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 4 is now allowable.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880 via EFS payment screen. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

/SMG/

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